SHORT NOTICE QUESTION.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar: Will the Government be pleased to state whether the recent release of certain prisoners from the Central Prison was at the instance of the Government of India.

President: In pursuance of the policy consistently and with great consideration followed by the Government of India of not interfering with the internal administration of Travancore or with the administrative, commercial, industrial or agricultural policies pursued by the State, no directions or instructions have reached this Government regarding the release of so called political prisoners or of detenues.

The action that has recently been taken in releasing certain persons has been so taken mainly on account of the conditions that are now prevailing in the State of absolute peace and freedom from subversive agitation. The few persons who are trying to stir up troubles in the ranks of labour under the guise of communistic or other analagous propaganda are, for the time being, insignificant although prompt steps will be taken if they endeavour to disturb the mutual relationship that happily exists and should exist between employers and employed within the State.

It may be added that the reasons that have evidently operated with reference to the release of certain persons in British India, namely, a more successful prosecution of war effort, do not obtain in Travancore because ever since the beginning of this war, there has been no division of opinion in the State on the matter and no considerable section of the people advocate the theory of non-violent non-co-operation. Such non-co-operation as has been manifested here has been of the violent type and has been dealt with.

TIN CONTAINERS AND GAS PRODUCERS.

President: Honourable Members might be glad to hear the result of the action taken by us on two matters. There was a certain amount of difficulty with regard to the export of cashewnuts from the State because of certain prohibitions against the supply of tin containers. I am glad to be able to announce that as a result of the representations made by the Government on behalf of the South Indian Cashewnut Manufacturers' Association, the Government of India have exempted tin cans containing cashew kernels for export to the United States of America from the requirements of the recent notification prescribing the taking out of licenses for tin containers exported out of India. This restriction was hampering the industry. I am glad to be able to announce that this restriction has been removed.

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